



**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Community Assistance**

Review Process Survey

Program Categories of the Solid Waste Management Act

The Department of Environment and Conservation and the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee has established a Task Force to evaluate the Solid Waste Management Act and make recommendations. This review process will be conducted over the next two years. In order to gather information regarding the Act, the Task Force is requesting your participation in this survey. The staff from your Development District will contact you to assist you in completing this survey. The Task Force appreciates your valuable input into this effort and will keep you informed as it progresses.

To understand the issues facing your solid waste planning region and local governments therein, the Task Force is asking that you take a few minutes to complete this survey. Basically, the Task Force would like any comments you have about your concerns and questions regarding the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act. Feel free to add any additional comments you might have relative to your involvement in your region's or county's integrated solid waste management program. Overall, the Task force would like to know what's worked and what has not worked.

The following categories cover the key program areas of the Solid Waste Management Act. These are broad categories of the Act that may address many actions and activities as prescribed by the state law. For each category listed below, please identify what your specific issues are. After receiving your comments, the Task Force will use this information in their evaluation of each category. During 2002, the Task Force will also be requesting your views on suggested options to improve the Act.

(1) Planning/Reporting: The Act requires documentation by the solid waste (SW) planning regions to forecast and plan for solid waste facilities and systems needed to service citizens for 10 years. SW planning regions produce annual progress reports and updates every 5 years to their plans.

Comments:

(2) Waste Reduction: The Act established a waste reduction and diversion goal of 25 percent by December 31, 2003. This requires each SW planning region to reduce the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) being disposed of or incinerated at MSW disposal facilities. This goal is reported on a per capita basis using 1995 as the base year.

Comments:

(3) Household Hazardous Waste and Problem Waste: Household Hazardous Wastes are products found in the home with corrosive or toxic components that could pose a potential risk to people and the environment if improperly disposed. Problem wastes are identified as used oil, other automotive fluids, and lead-acid batteries. The Act set out specific statewide services (provided through TDEC contractors) for household hazardous waste collection and requires counties to establish and maintain collection sites for problem wastes.

Comments:

(4) Waste Tires: The Act addresses the handling, management, and disposal of waste tires or the transporting of waste tires to end use markets. The state provides shredding services for disposal of shredded waste tires at landfills until June 30, 2002. Counties are to provide waste tire storage sites prior to disposal or transporting to an end user.

Comments:

(5) New Initiatives: Any new programs to accomplish the objectives of the Act.

Comments:

(6) Financial Assistance: Grants are authorized by the Act to assist SW planning regions, counties, and others entities in meeting the statutory requirements. Revenues from the SWM Fund are used in these various grant programs.

Comments:

(7) Technical Assistance/Outreach/Education: There are a number of statewide services provided for under the Act. TDEC contracts for services with UT's Institute for Public Service (CTAS and CIS for example) to assist local governments and businesses in their solid waste and waste reduction programs. The Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project (TN SWEP) assists K-12 educators in incorporating solid waste education into existing curriculum.

Comments:

(8) Funding (Fees/Revenues): The Act authorizes two specific revenue sources in order to implement the statutory requirements. Revenues are deposited into the Solid Waste Management Fund (a dedicated fund). The Fund consists of revenues generated by the \$0.75 per ton tipping fee surcharge at Class I MSW facilities (\$4,800,000 annually) and \$0.90 of the \$1.00 pre-disposal fee on the purchase of a new tire (\$4,300,000 annually).

Comments:

Additional Comments:

Return by: **December 3, 2001**
Return to: **Joyce N. Dunlap**
SWA Program Manager
TDEC-DCA
8th Floor, L&C Tower
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243